

Message Text

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S/P:MR. WARD

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 185427

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SO, ET, PBOR

SUBJECT: AFRICA

1. AFRICA: ADDITIONAL TALKING POINTS WHICH AMBASSADOR
HARTMAN MAY USE IF HE DESIRES DURING HIS MEETING WITH
FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER IN PARIS ON AUGUST 8, 1977.

2. THE HORN:

(A) WE ARE GREATLY CONCERNED ABOUT SPREADING VIOLENCE IN
THE HORN. OUR INFORMATION IS THAT THE SOMALI ETHNIC
GROUPS IN THE OGADEN, WITH SUPPORT FROM THE SOMALI GOVERN-
MENT INCLUDING DEPLOYMENT OF SOME REGULAR SOMALI MILITARY
UNITS, NOW CONTROL MOST OF THE REGION. THE ETHIOPIANS
CONTINUE TO HOLD THE THREE MAJOR TOWNS. WHILE WE HAVE
REPORTS OF INCREASING ETHIOPIAN CONCERNS, THEY HAVE NOT
BEEN DEFEATED IN THE STRUGGLE FOR THE OGADEN. IT REMAINS
TO BE SEEN HOW MUCH LONGER THE SOMALIS CAN SUSTAIN THEIR
EFFORTS.

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(B) CONTINUED SOMALI INVOLVEMENT IN THE OGADEN CONFLICT
CANNOT HELP BUT HAVE AN EFFECT ON THE KIND OF ASSISTANCE
THE US MIGHT BE WILLING TO PROVIDE. WE HAVE AUTHORIZED

SOME ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR SOMALIA. WE HAD AGREED IN
PRINCIPLE TO SUPPLY DEFENSIVE ARMS TO SOMALIA BEFORE THE
FLARE-UP IN THE OGADEN.

(C) IN THE LIGHT OF THE OGADEN SITUATION, WE FEEL WE MUST MOVE CAUTIOUSLY IN TERMS OF THE TYPE AND TIMING OF DELIVERIES OF ITEMS WE MIGHT AGREE TO SUPPLY. WE HAVE NOT AS YET IDENTIFIED ITEMS WHICH WOULD FILL GAPS IN SOMALIA'S CAPABILITY TO DEFEND ITS PRESENT TERRITORY AND WHICH WOULD NOT INVOLVE US IN THE CURRENT CONFLICT. WITHOUT INTENDING IN ANY WAY TO AFFECT FRENCH PLANS, WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HOW THEY ASSESS THE OGADEN SITUATION, ITS EFFECT ON THEIR ARMS SUPPLIES TO SOMALIA, AND THE EFFECTS THE FIGHTING THERE MIGHT HAVE ON DJIBOUTI.

(D) WE ARE FOLLOWING UP OUR EARLIER AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE C-L30S TO SUDAN WITH A MILITARY MISSION THAT IS CURRENTLY IN KHARTOUM TO ASSESS SUDANESE MILITARY REQUIREMENTS. WE HAVE NOT MADE ANY COMMITMENTS TO SUDAN. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT ALL THE WESTERN COUNTRIES SHOULD SYMPATHETICALLY CONSIDER SUDAN'S REQUESTS FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO REPLACE SOVIET-ORIGIN STOCKS THAT ARE BEGINNING TO RUN DOWN.

3. CHAD:

(A) THE VICE PRESIDENT ASSURED THE CHADIAN VICE PRESIDENT WE WOULD ASSIST IN RESTORING CHAD'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. WE ARE ATTEMPTING, WITH THE MEANS AT OUR DISPOSAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

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WITHIN THE LIMITS OF OUR LEGISLATION, TO BE RESPONSIVE TO THE CHADIAN REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE. AT PRESENT, THE MOST WE CAN DO IS TO FACILITATE TRANSFERS OF US ORIGIN EQUIPMENT FROM OTHER COUNTRIES OR LICENSE EXPORTS OF CHADIAN PURCHASES. WE ARE SUPPORTING CHADIAN REQUESTS TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS FOR ASSISTANCE.

(B) WE SUPPORT THE OAU MEDIATION EFFORT AND WOULD APPRECIATE THE MINISTER'S ESTIMATE OF THE CHANCES OF RECONCILIATION BETWEEN THE VARIOUS CHADIAN REBEL GROUPS AND THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.

4. WEST AFRICA:

(A) I WOULD APPRECIATE HEARING YOUR IMPRESSIONS OF YOUR RECENT TRIP TO AFRICA.

(B) WHAT EVOLUTION DO YOU FORESEE FOR THE RECENTLY FORMED CEAO DEFENSE ARRANGEMENT?

(C) WILL YOUR GOVERNMENT RENDER DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO THE ORGANIZATION OR WILL YOU CONTINUE TO WORK THROUGH

THE INDIVIDUAL MEMBER GOVERNMENTS?

5. SOUTHERN AFRICA:

(A) WE MAY BE REACHING A CRITICAL JUNCTURE ON BOTH
NAMIBIA AND RHODESIA.

(B) ON NAMIBIA, WE BELIEVE THAT THE WESTERN DEMARCHES
IN CAPE TOWN HAVE ACHIEVED NOTABLE PROGRESS. WE ARE
GRATEFUL FOR FRANCE'S COOPERATION IN THIS RESPECT. WE
CANNOT BE SURE WHETHER VORSTER'S REFUSAL TO CONSIDER
SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPWITHDRAWALS PRIOR TO THE ESTABLISH-
MENT OF A NAMIBIAN GOVERNMENT REPRESENTS A ROCK-
BOTTOM POSITION OR A NEGOTIATING TACTIC. IN ANY EVENT,
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MUCH WILL DEPEND ON WHETHER SWAPO DEMONSTRATED SOME
FLEXIBILITY ON THE WESTERN PROPOSALS AT ITS MEETING
WITH THE WESTERN FIVE IN NEW YORK ON AUGUST 8.

(C) ON RHODESIA, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT
NEGOTIATIONS MUST BE GIVEN A CHANCE. WE ARE CONTINUING
TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE BRITISH IN OUR ATTEMPTS TO
WORK OUT NEW PROPOSALS. THE SECRETARY WILL MEET FONMIN
DAVID OWEN IN LONDON ON AUGUST 12 TO MOVE THESE PRO-
POSALS FORWARD.
CHRISTOPHER

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